

Parliament of January, had been suffered to lie in Nottingham Castle, was again in his seat as member for Herefordshire. Pie was once more chosen to fill his old office and the part that he had so manfully played eighteen months before.

The claims put forward in the Good Parliament were deliberately and successfully revived. At the instance of the Commons a scheme of reform was carried out. A new Council was elected in Parliament. The list was based on the Council as it had been formed on Richard's accession, but Lord Latimer's name was this time conspicuously absent. It was further conceded at the request of the Commons that the Chancellor and Treasurer should be chosen in Parliament, and for some years this promise was actually kept. Not content to leave the expenditure of the war taxes to councillors whom they had themselves helped to choose, the Commons insisted on the nomination of two responsible receivers of the taxes they were about to vote. The King appointed William Walworth and John Philpot, two well-known London merchants and enemies of John of Gaunt. At the request of the Lower House the Lords confiscated the property of Alice Ferrers, thereby admitting an ordinance of the Good Parliament to be valid in her case. Before the Houses broke up,\* the majesty of the Commons had been vindicated and their power re-established.<sup>1</sup>

The winter closed down in gloom, and spring returned bringing fresh anxiety. The government seems to have regarded its prospects for the approaching year with a feeling akin to panic. In February it sent orders to the Mayor of Oxford to repair the walls and towers of the town <sup>f</sup> in case our enemies the French invade the kingdom of England, which God avert, as has rarely happened/<sup>2</sup> Probably the alarm was exaggerated, and such a precaution unnecessary. The occupation of part of Sussex in the preceding autumn had cost the French a greater effort than they were able easily to repeat. The expedition had been carried by a fleet of war galleys, and several ' cogs/ the first-class vessels of the period, which, it was rumoured, had cost fabulous sums to maintain.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Hot. Parl.*, iii. 5, 7, seq. 26; iii. 16, pets, via, and ix.; iii. 13-15, an<3 Wals., i. 343.  
\* *Feed.*, i\*. 80, \* Nicolas, *Royal Navy*\* ii 161; Wals., i. 34&